

Re: MOLCHAN, Vladimir Nikolayevich

Date: 2 August 1965 in Caracas

Source: *Accessary/57*

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

1. Source met subject in Plaza Bolivar 2 August in the afternoon at 1:00 P.M. there source gave subject the following books: NEW POETRY 1964 #'s 5&6. VYVID PRAV UKRAINY, DOKYMENTY UKRAINSKOHO KOMYNISMY, ~~ST~~CHASNIST #1/65, book of poetry by EVHEN MALANUK. and reprint from ~~ST~~CHASNIST (the second for subject). Subject thanked source for literature, and commented on leaflet that he had received the previous day about the fire in library in Kiev. Subject said that he had learned many new things from the leaflet that he was not aware of before. In particular the trial of POHRYZHASKY. Subject added that two days after the fire was put out, the director of the library appeared on Kiev television to explain to the public what had happened, and what steps were being taken to replace new damaged volumes. But added the subject, the director ~~did~~ not mention anything about the phosphorous strips which were found in the library, subject said that he knew about the phosphorus in Kiev. Subject seemed very much impressed by the document, and wanted to know how it got to the emmigration, source said that he did not know. Subject said that he had to go, but would meet source that same evening and they could talk.

2. Source met subject 2 August at 11:00 P.M. in the Plaza Bolivar, subject came together with VIKHAREV, Sergei, and source was with friend B. The group went to the restaurant El Parador, and there ordered wine, and talked.

Source asked subject about his impressions of the poems of SYMONENKO, subject said that he liked them, and said that they would never be printed in Ukraine because of their contents. Source replied that this is a shame, and that the people in Ukraine should be informed of such poetry. Subject agreed but added that the censorship is still very strong in the country. In the Ukraine there are many poets who write poems similar to Symonenko said the subject, but declined to comment who they were.

3. Source asked subject his impressions of the Ukrainian emmigration, and what they should do for their country, subject was no sure on this point, but said that they should spread the truth about Ukraine, in the field of literature and art.

4. Source stated that Ukraine as a nation does not have the attributes of a modern nation at all. He named the fact that Ukraine does not have an army, diplomatic relations with other nations, it does not even have it's own postal service. Subject said that this is true, but at present little can be done to improve the situation. Source then stated that it is the role of the emmigration to help out Ukraine in any possible means. He added that the people in Ukraine should inform the emmigration of what is going on in the country, about examples of Russification, and that the emmigration in return should inform the people in Ukraine of what is being done

to help the situation in Ukraine, and what cultural and political work is being done by the Ukrainian emmigration. Subject agreed that this is a very important task. Then source proposed the following, why can't the subject send him cutouts from local newspapers, poems that appear in local press, and generally materials that are hard to get at the present. Subject agreed, but asked source that in their correspondence they both confine themselves to neutral topics, since there is a censorship. Source agreed, but gave the suggestion, that if subject should happen to travel abroad in the future to let him know, and they can contact each other. Source said that he has many friends in different parts of the world, and if subject should happen to go abroad in the future, source can contact these people, and they will meet him with the greeting from Roman with the beard. Subject agreed to do this. Source also asked subject to write first, since he is on the road at present and source does not know when he will return home. Subject agreed to do this, and they exchanged addresses.

5. Source asked subject his opinion of the young Ukrainian poets, subject said that he really appreciated what they were doing, he said that he was particularly favorable to the poems of KOSTENKO, and DRACH, but that there were very many good young poets now. Source asked him what he thought of such writers and poets as Tychna, and Rylsky. Subject did not like TYCHYNA because he wrote poetry on orders from above, subject did not consider this real literature, but just being a parrot for the party. In relation to this subject brought in the cult of Stalin, and tried to put the blame on him. When source asked if Stalin was the only one responsible for all the wrong-doings of the period, subject could not answer. Source then laid the blame of that period on the party as a whole, and not only on Stalin. Source attacked Zhdanov, and compared him to Ilyechev, then said that there is a very similar comparison to be made between the two men. Subject agreed, source questioned subject about the attacks on the young Ukrainian poets in 1963, and the reasons for that action. Subject did not want to answer, and seemed uncomfortable with the question as stated. Source then asked what subject thought would be the line of the party in regard to literature in the future. Subject looked on this question with optimism, and said that he believed more freedom will be granted.

6. Sourceask confronted subject with the question of de-nationalization of Ukrainians in the larger cities of Ukraine. Subject explained this by saying that Ukraine, and in particular the eastern parts have been under Russian rule for so long that there has been such a mixture of languages, and population that the people have forgotten who they are. Source stated that the Russian people can study their national hero's and honor them, but the Ukrainians cannot. Subject put blame for this on the school's and the system of education, saying that children are brought up with little mention of Ukraine. This process is deeply imbedded in them for the rest of their lives.

Subject attacked this with anger, but defended himself, saying that he was raised in an atmosphere where Ukrainian culture was ~~taught~~^{taught} him. He added that he spoke Ukrainian at home. Source attacked the fact that in Ukraine a feeling of national inferiority prevails, that the people do not care about their country, or their culture. Subject then commented that he noticed that all the emigrants that he has met, have a very strong love for Ukraine. But he did not comment on source's statement. Subject only added that young poets and writers are trying to change this feeling, and in most of their poems, a love for Ukraine can be readily noticed. At this time it was getting late, and subject told source that he would have to leave. source asked him what he would like to send, subject said that books of young Ukrainian poets that work in the emigration would be very interesting to have. Source promised to send them, and they parted.